



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 23, 1998

Ms. Helen K. Bright
The University of Texas System
Office of General Counsel
201 West Seventh Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2981

OR98-0233

Dear Ms. Bright:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 112184.

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston (the "university") received a request for the university's budgets for certain periods as well as the individual salaries of the university's employees. You claim that the requested information is excepted from required public disclosure under section 552.103 of the Government Code. We have considered your arguments and reviewed the submitted sample of records.¹


To be excepted under section 552.103, the university must demonstrate that (1) litigation is pending or reasonably anticipated and (2) the information at issue is related to that litigation. *Heard v. Houston Post Co.*, 684 S.W.2d 210, 212 (Tex. App.--Houston [1st Dist.] 1984 writ ref'd n.r.e); Open Records Decision No. 551 (1990) at 4. You argue that the requested information is related to a pending lawsuit, *Hamilton v. James & Univ. of Tex. Medical Branch at Galveston*, (10th Dist. Ct., Galveston Co.). You have satisfied the first prong of section 552.103 by submitting a copy of the petition showing that litigation is pending. As for the second prong, you have demonstrated that some of the requested information relates to the pending litigation. We have marked the types of information that you may withhold pursuant to section 552.103.

¹In reaching our conclusion here, we assume that the "representative sample" of records submitted to this office is truly representative of the requested records as a whole. See Open Records Decision Nos. 499 (1988), 497 (1988). This open records letter does not reach, and therefore does not authorize the withholding of, any other requested records to the extent that those records contain substantially different types of information than that submitted to this office.

In reaching this conclusion, however, we assume that the opposing parties to the litigation have not had access to the records at issue. Absent special circumstances, once information has been obtained by all parties to the litigation, no section 552.103 interest exists with respect to that information. Open Records Decision Nos. 349 (1982), 320 (1982). We also note that section 552.103(a) no longer applies once the litigation has concluded. Attorney General Opinion MW-575 (1982); Open Records Decision No. 350 (1982).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Yen-Ha Le
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

YHL/rho

Ref.: ID# 112184

Enclosures: Marked documents

cc: Ms. Molly (Mary E.) Hamilton
5826 Avenue S ½ Street
Galveston, Texas 77551
(w/o enclosures)